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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

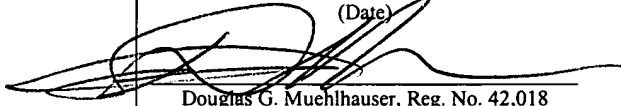
Applicant : Akio Wakabayashi, M.D.  
Appl. No. : 10/084,689  
Filed : February 26, 2002  
For : APPARATUS AND METHOD  
FOR SUTURING IN  
RESTRICTED SPACE  
Examiner : Bradford C. Pantuck  
Group Art Unit : 3731

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

May 13, 2004

(Date)

  
Douglas G. Muehlhauser, Reg. No. 42,018

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION OF APRIL 13, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby responds to the Office communication mailed April 13, 2004. Applicant's withdrawal of certain claims and the listing of pending claims begins on page 2 of this response. Applicant's remarks concerning election of claims follow on page 4.